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Kevin Krietemeyer

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EXAMINER

FERNSTROM, KURT

ART UNIT

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DELIVERY MODE

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PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 41-46, 48-58, 62, 63, 65 and 69 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Jarvis in view of Novak. Jarvis discloses in Figures 1 and 2 and in column 2, line 24 to column 3, line 18 of the specification a method and device of playing a lottery comprising a gaming slip 12 comprising a substrate having gaming information printed thereon, including a random request region 26 that enables a plurality of computer-generated picks to be requested in conjunction with a lottery via a written mark made with a writing instrument. Column 3, lines 3-17 in particular discusses the use of a computer to generate picks when a random request is received. Jarvis fails to disclose that a plurality of quick picks may be selected for a single game. Novak discloses in Figure 4 and in column 9, lines 51-64 that a lottery game whereby a player may enter a plurality of quick picks for the same game. Column 5, lines 27-33 also discloses a plurality of quick picks for the same game. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the relevant art to modify the device and method comprising a random request region which enables a plurality of computer-generated picks to be requested for a single game for the purpose of allowing the user to easily generate a

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plurality of picks for a game, thereby increasing the chances of winning. With respect to claims 42, 45, 58 and 69, both Jarvis and Novak disclose future draw lottery games.

With respect to claim 43, 46, Jarvis discloses in Figure 3 a ticket which is generated by the method, displaying the randomly generated picks. With respect to claims 44 and 62, Jarvis discloses a plurality of random request regions 26, each region corresponding to one of a plurality of games, such that random picks are generated corresponding to each random request region. With respect to claims 48, 49 and 56, Jarvis discloses that a manual selection region 14 including one or more manually selected numbers is provided which enables a manual pick to be made, the manual picks then being generated on a ticket. With respect to claims 50 and 57, Jarvis discloses that a draw request region 22 is provided which enables picks to be played for a plurality of drawings. With respect to claims 51-53, a machine readable medium as claimed is inherent in the disclosure of Jarvis, in particular that portion which discusses the use of a computer to generate random numbers in response to a random request. With respect to claim 63, Jarvis discloses that the substrate is unperforated. While Jarvis is silent as to the material used for the ticket, Official Notice is taken that paper is an extremely well known type of material to use for gaming slips, and would have been an obvious means to allow a user to make a request with a writing instrument which can then be fed into and processed by a computer. With respect to claim 65, Jarvis discloses that each computer generated pick comprises a plurality of randomly selected numbers.

Claims 47, 66 and 67 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Jarvis in view of Novak, and further in view of Alvarez. Jarvis as viewed in combination with Novak discloses all of the limitations of the claims with the exception of the substrate having a plurality of game panels corresponding to different games. Alvarez discloses in Figures 4-7 and in column 5, line 37 to column 6, line 10 of the specification a device and method comprising a substrate 10 having gaming information corresponding to different games thereon. Figures 6 and 7 in particular show gaming information corresponding to different games, where the sections of Figures 6 and 7 are part of the same substrate as shown in Figures 4 and 5. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the relevant art to modify the device of Jarvis as viewed in combination with Novak by providing a plurality of game panels corresponding to different games for the purpose of allowing a user to easily select numbers for different games. While the substrate of Alvarez does not disclose or suggest random request regions, this feature is already suggested by Jarvis as viewed in combination with Novak. With respect to claim 47, the generation of separate tickets is inherent in the method of Alvarez, as the game slips are detachable and can be submitted separately.

Claims 59-61 and 64 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Jarvis in view of Novak, and further in view of Alexoff. Jarvis as viewed in combination with Novak discloses all of the limitations of the claims with the exception of marking one box to indicate the number of computer-generated picks to be played. Alexoff discloses in Figure 4 a gaming slip with a "Number of Plays" section at the bottom, where the player selected the number of picks to be plays by marking one box.

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While in the primary embodiment of Alexoff this feature is generally related to the number of consecutive days on which picks are to be played, Alexoff discloses in column 4, lines 1-16 an alternative embodiment where a player may play multiple picks for the same drawing. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the relevant art to modify the device of Jarvis as viewed in combination with Novak by providing an area whereby a player may mark a box to select the number of picks to be played for the purpose of providing "instant gratification" to a user, as discussed at column 4, lines 11-16 of Alexoff.

Response to Arguments

Applicant's arguments filed April 4, 2008 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive. The amendments to the claims do not overcome the prior art. Jarvis discloses a gaming slip where a player's written marks are made and read with respect to various types of information. The combined teachings of Jarvis and Novak suggest the claimed invention.

With respect to the arguments that Novak teaches away from the combination of references, Novak fails to disclose a physical gaming slip upon which written marks are made. However, failure to disclose something is not the same as teaching away from it. As noted above, Jarvis discloses a method comprising providing a physical gaming slip where a player's written marks are made and read with respect to various types of information, where the slip is processed so as to enter the player in a game, such as a lottery. Novak discloses a method of receiving information from a user and processing

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the information to enter the player in a lottery game, including a specific piece of information which is received and processed. There is nothing inherent about that specific piece of information which teaches away from its inclusion on a written slip of paper. The combination of references is proper, and suggests the claimed invention. As a result, the claims remain rejected under 35 USC 103

Conclusion

THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL. Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the mailing date of this final action.


Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Kurt Fernstrom whose telephone number is (571) 272-4422. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F 9:30-6:00.

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If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Gene Kim can be reached on 571 272-4463. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/Kurt Fernstrom/
Primary Examiner, Art Unit 3711

<div>Application Number</div> <div></div>	Application/Control No.	Applicant(s)/Patent under Reexamination	
	10/718,118	KRIETEMEYER, KEVIN	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	Kurt Fernstrom	3711	